THE
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VOLUME XXXI—NUMBER 1879— From THURSDAY, MARCH 21,—to MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1799. —[THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

☞ *THE Editor conceives it his duty to inform his Subscribers and Patrons in the Country, but more particularly at the Eastward, that he feels sensibly hurt at the frequent Disappointments and Mortifications which THEY feel in being deprived of the regular and seasonable receipt of the* CHRONICLE—*they may be assured however, that it is not owing to any want of the utmost care, attention and fidelity in the Office—he does not hesitate in declaring it as his opinion, and presumes it will be readily conceived, that the real cause is entirely owing to the present prevailing influence of party spirit—The papers published on Thursdays, cannot be put into the Mail, because it is closed the Evening preceding; we are therefore under the necessity of being obliged to the Driver of the Stage to take them on. If therefore this Driver chooses, or can by any means be prevailed upon to leave them behind, we may be mortified at the circumstance, but cannot help it.—It may not be improper to observe on this business, that there is one* Gentleman *of Independence, who occasionally drives the Eastern Mail Stage, and who never fails to carry any and all Papers—these facts being known, it may perhaps be in the power of those of our disappointed Subscribers in, and about Portsmouth, to find a remedy; if it is not, we and they, may fold our hands and pocket the inconvenience, but which it is presumed, is taking one effectual method to restrain the Press.*

CHRONICLE-OFFICE, March 18, 1799.

*** *For the frequent and multiplied Subscriptions of late, from Friends & Constitutional Republicans,—The Editor returns his thanks—his gratitude would be much increased if his Old Customers would also remember him, in these trying Times.*

NOTICE is hereby given, That the Subscriber has been duly appointed Administratrix, on the estate of *Oliver Shed*, late of Roxbury, in the County of Norfolk, Blacksmith, deceased; and has taken upon herself that trust, by giving bonds as the Law directs. And all Persons who have any Demands against said Estate, are required to exhibit them: And all Persons indebted to said the Estate, are called upon to make immediate payment, to

GRACE SHED, Administratrix.

Roxbury, March 16, 1799.

NOTICE is hereby given, That the Subscriber has been duly appointed Administrator, on the Estate of *Recompence Wadsworth*, late of Stoughton, in the County of Norfolk, deceased, and has taken upon himself that trust, by giving bonds as the Law directs. And all Persons having Demands upon the Estate of said deceased; are requested to exhibit the same: And all Persons indebted to the said Estate, are called upon to make payment, to

BENJA. WADSWORTH, Administrator.

Stoughton, Feb. 5, 1799.

NOTICE is hereby given, That the Subscriber have been duly appointed Administrator, on the Estate of *James Clark*, late of Quincy, in the county of Norfolk, Gentleman, deceased; and has taken upon himself that trust, by giving bonds as the Law directs. And all Persons having demands upon the Estate of the said deceased, are requested to exhibit the same: And all Persons indebted to the said Estate, are called upon to make payment,

JAMES CLARK, Administrator.

Boston, Jan. 3, 1799.

NOTICE is hereby given, That the Subscriber has been duly appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Middlesex, Guardian to *James Nichols*, jun. of Reading, in said County, and has taken upon himself that Trust, as the Law directs. And all Persons are hereby forbid trading with, or trusting said *James Nichols*, as I shall not pay any debts he may contract.

JAMES NICHOLS, Guardian.

Reading, Feb. 21, 1799.

NOTICE is hereby given, That the Subscriber has been duly appointed Administrator, on the Estate of *Nathaniel Hait*, late of Randolph, in the county of Norfolk, Yeoman, deceased, and has taken upon himself that Trust, by giving bonds as the Law directs. And all Persons having Demands upon the Estate of the said deceased, are requested to exhibit the same: And all Persons indebted to the said Estate, are called upon to make payment, to

SILAS PAINE, Administrator.

Randolph, Dec. 22, 1798.

ALL Persons having Demands on the Estate of *Jonathan Brown*, Esq late of Watertown, deceased, are desired to present them for adjustment. And all those who are indebted to said Estate, are requested to make speedy payment, to

JONATHAN BROWN, Administrator.

Watertown, Jan. 24, 1799.

MISCELLANY.

REFLECTIONS,

Upon the Address of Mr. John Ward Fenno, to the People of the United States.

THE apparent object of the address is to represent the present system of government of the United States, as inadequate to the maintenance of public happiness. An intended consequence of the establishment of that position would seem to be, that we must resort to some other. A real and simple despotism, an absolute monarchy, would not be desired, we presume, nor can it be expected, that the Americans would submit to it. A limited monarchy, of commons, lords, clergy, and king, such as that of Great-Britain is pretended to be, is, among a few Americans, the theme of public optimism—the best of all possible governments. But upon what grounds of actual experience, upon what foundations of calm reason does this predilection for limited monarchy rest? Has there ever been a government, in which even the body of freeholders chose the house of commons, in which the house of lords proceeded, in continued succession, as a genuine hereditary branch, having its vacancies filled, only when necessary, by the united wisdom and virtue of the nation; in which the clergy held a share (as pretended in Britain) in virtue of their religious ministry, unadulterated by the mixture of a predominant portion of temporal ingredients, or in which the crown was hereditary in a family or even in the nation? No. The history of the world does not furnish one such example; much less in the excellency of that form of government evinced by that number of instances, which men of sound minds and prudent tempers will require, before they abandon the elective & representative governments, which honor & bless the people of the United States of America, in this time of universal agitation among governments of other forms.

The British constitution is represented to the world as the perfection of human establishment. Yet it has been held, that, under it, the House of Commons, the lords, the clergy, & the king might bind, in all cases whatever, very many millions of people, who had no effectual voice in their creation. The people of sixteen or seventeen provinces, on this continent, of ten or a dozen West-India Islands, of several great Asiatic colonies, of the African settlements, of the vast and populous kingdom of Ireland, and of all Great-Britain itself; excepting a knot of six hundred *burrough men* were excluded from any effectual participation in chusing the commons, in filling the vacancies of the Lords, and in the creation of the clergy, or in calling to the throne the various races of Danish, Norman, Anjouvan, Saxon, Dutch, & Hanoverian kings. In the time of James the First; England, notwithstanding the proud lead she takes in the British empire and in Europe, was subject to the absolute monarchy of a man, to her essentially a foreigner.

James the first of England. Raleigh & other authoritative writers, of the time of the Scottish James, assures us, that the Government of England was, by its actual legal state, less free than those of France and Spain. We know what it was under the varied tyrannies of the succeeding Stuarts and the Cromwells. For nearly the whole of the seventeenth century there was not the shadow of freedom. The Burroughs remained an uncured cancer in the Constitution. The matter is now but little better, for ninety men elect two thirds of the Irish commons, six thousand men elect a majority of the British commons, the British Parliament yet legislates for millions of unrepresented colonists, Irish sailors are yet impressed to frustrate Irish emancipation, judges of the admiralty continue to sit at the pleasure of the crown, without juries, upon the lives of the helpless poor & upon the claims of their royal creator, against natives and foreigners. Judges of the assizes are yet appointed, for the occasion, by the king of Britain to try offences against his crown and dignity, the juries are yet selected, for the same purposes, by sheriffs appointed by the same chief magistrate. The chancellor still holds at the pleasure of the *Executive* power, his high judiciary authorities, and even his office of President of their upper house of *Legislature!* The body of the people are deprived of the right to keep and exercise themselves in the use of arms. The time has been when the sole force of Great-Britain consisted in one hundred and sixty thousand well appointed militia—with two or three battalions of soldiers.—Thus circumstanced, no foreign state *attempted* to invade her for fifty years. But now, without a regiment in the field in any foreign country, she has regular forces in Britain and Ireland, sufficient to appal the very soul of liberty. The fiscal system, which has grown out of the bad distribution of power in Great-Britain, has burdened the nation with a desperate debt of two thousand millions of dollars, two thirds of which have accrued under the constitution, as perfected in the present king's reign.

The cure of vice in America could not be obtained by the adoption of the British constitution with its crown, its nobles, and its established church, for we have the authority of Mr. John Adams, junior, in his Publicola, page (181) that *universal venality and corruption pervades all classes of men* in Great-Britain. It is possible, that the two writers may be greatly mistaken in regard to the virtues of the people of America and England. They have probably not surveyed the two scenes with discernment and calmness. The people of England may be found as virtuous as any other great nation in Europe, but they are not more vicious, no doubt, than the less tempted people of the U. States. The subjects of the British monarchy held as convicts in the New-York prison, on the first day of January, 1799, were no less than sixty-two, though there were only 118 Americans. The Americans in any English prison on the same day, could probably be found to bear a much smaller proportion.—There were only six citizens of the French Republic, at the time mentioned, in the New-York prison. Mr. Wilberforce, of the British Parliament, has informed us, in his late religious work, that the nobility of Great-Britain are inferior in virtue to the mass of the people.

The English church has departed from the pure rules and sublime examples of Jesus Christ much more than our own churches. In a late financial statement of Mr. Pitt, he inserts tythes of *England* alone at 14 millions per annum of our dollars. The English are about seven millions of people.—Had Jesus Christ intended that his ministers or apostles wnre to live in palaces, to clothe in purple, to fare sumptuously every day, and to levy *a poll tax* of two dollars per head upon all mankind by the civil authority, he would not have given to the world his precious lessons and examples of humility, moderation, and self-denial. The Americans consider such an establishment of ecclesiastical wealth and power, as that of England, to be anti-christian and even sacriligeous. They do not suppose, that it will be required in Heaven, that every man should be "*a good Member of the Church of England, as by Law established.*" The Quakers, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Catholics, Baptists, Hebrews, and other churches, (disfranchised in England) are not less vigorous here, than the English church itself in America or Britain. Never will these states follow England in an established Church while it is remembered, that the Connecticut Assembly ordered the imprisonment, fining and *exportation* of the Quaker under the avowed denomination of "*Heretics.*" [See Mr. Proud's History of Pennsylvania, page 465, volume 1.] The Congregational church was there established, & clothed with temporal powers and greatly abused it, as established churches *always* do.

No sentiment concerning hereditary power is more general in America, nor more plainly just, than that it cannot be maintained but at the expence of *natural affection.* This principle is necessary to maintain all descriptions of animals. If even "*the Federal Sow*" were to nourish only the oldest pig in her litter, the rest must perish, and she would prove an unnatural creature—worse than all former sows. The people of all the states have wisely abolished the exclusive right of the eldest sons to the family estates. By this they have abolished the materials of nobility, and set a mountain of impediment in the way of its establishment. Let the Republicans never consent to alter the law of descents in favor of one of a family. Let affectionate fathers, fond mothers, just and natural parents, save themselves from the damning sin of giving all the bread of their hopeful sons and tender daughters to an eldest son. Let them thus avoid the bitter reflections of their injured children upon their unworthy memories.—Let them save their eldest son from the crime of robbing his brothers and sisters through the weakness and vices of their parents. It is no wonder, that the virtuous *Wilberforce* should observe, that the nobility of England, are more unworthy than the mass of the people. Their vain and wicked honors are founded on injustice to their brethren, their younger sons and their unprotected sisters and daughters. The sons are condemned to labor and dependence, and the sisters to legal prostitution, in the arms of aged, vicious, but wealthy husbands, that the eldest son may sit down with "*the honors and estates,*"—unworthy and unfeeling!

The comparative merits of the federal and state judges constitute a very delicate topic, which the address has brought into view. There a number of judges of the courts of the United States, on the supreme and district benches. Let the judiciary sphere be considered in relation to public chancery, common, and statute law.—Let extensive and long study, and practice be taken into view. Let experience in law offices be also borne in mind. Let mature years and experience in men and things be remembered. After a calm and candid view of all these points, let it be submitted to the federal judges themselves, whether the writer has not taken much upon himself, in making his reflections upon the state judiciary officers.—There can be no doubt, that out of the chancellors, and appellate judges of the states and out of the other state judges, a list of judiciary characters equal in number, to those other federal judges, might be selected by the latter, to which they would think it no dishonor to be compared. Let the Americans, however, rejoice that they have so many good judges upon both establishments, that they are not removeable, like the British judges in chancery, nor appointed for the occasion, like their judges of the assizes, at the pleasure of the Executive, that all our juries are not selected by sheriffs appointed and removeable by the Executive, and that all accusations & all questions of property must be submitted to juries.

We want no substitute for our Constitution. If we did no good one could be obtained. Let it be again asked, when and where a monarchy limited by an hereditary nobility, and a real house of commons existed? When & where a king and nobles, each having a negative on the laws, were actually combined with a real and fair representation of the rest of the nation? No where but *in speculative writings.*—How then can it be decidedly affirmed, from fanciful and unexecuted theories, that they would work so well together as our excellent Constitutions have done. For new Governments, devised in moments of distress, organized in a storm in a country half wilderness, placed over a various people, in a time of unexampled and extreme difficulties, amidst a belligerent and insuriated world, acted on by various foreign nations, having to struggle with financial arrearages, of many years, embarrassed by disputes with two neighboring powers and by Indian wars, to carry us through with so much safety and prosperity, is more than any mixed monarchy ever accomplished.

Such evidences of the practical blessings of our constitutions, contrasted with the sad condition of British *ruin* and *monarchy* in Ireland, over a nearly equal number, must convince every man of reflection of the madness of these hereditary projects. If there are any who have hoped to seduce from the Constitution, any of our associated volunteer *Americans*, it is devoutly *wished* they would make their experiment. They will find that our numerous young men, and many of the foreign associators, will revolt from every idea derogatory to republican liberty, under a representative government.—In the mean time let the address of Mr. Fenno, like the glistening hostile arms on the distant hills, rally to the standard of our Constitution, every man in militia, the army, or the navy, who calls himself

A Friend to America.

Domestic News.

PHILADELPHIA, *March 16.*

OFFICIAL.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Thomas Truxton, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated on board the United States Ship Constellation, in sight of the Island of

St. Christophers Feb. 10, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I WROTE you the 4th inst. to which I must beg leave to refer, and soon after weighed from Basseterre road, St. Christophers, and proceeded to sea, having made the necessary arrangements with the merchants and masters of vessels for a convoy, to sail this day for the United States, under charge of the Norfolk and Richmond, which vessels I directed to cruize, in the mean time, near St. Bartholomews and St. Martins, so as to be at hand to proceed with the convoy at the time appointed. As soon as I left the road of Basseterre, (which I did with the Constellation solus) I stretched under Montserat and towards Guadaloupe by the wind, and from thence under the lee of Antigua and Barbuda. In this route I only met two merchant vessels and a British frigate. I therefore thought it best to change my ground, which I did, and run down towards the island of Nevis, and on the 9th inst. at noon, the island bearing W. S. W. five leagues distance, discovered a large ship to southward, on which I bore down. She hoisted American colors; and I made our private signals for the day, as well as that of the British, but finding she answered neither, I immediately suspected her to be an enemy, and in a short time after found that my suspicions were well founded, for she hoisted the French National Colors, and fired a gun to windward (which is a signal of an enemy.) I continued bearing down on her, and at a quarter past 3 P. M. she hailed me several times; and as soon as I got in a position for every shot to do execution, I answered by commencing a close and successful engagement, which lasted until about half-past 4, P. M. when she struck her colors to the United States ship Constellation; and I immediately took possession of her. She proved to be the celebrated French National Frigate Insurgente, of 40 guns and 409 men, lately out from France, commanded by Monsieur Bureaut, and is esteemed one of the fastest sailing ships in the French Navy. I have been much shattered in my rigging and sails, and my foretopmast rendered, from wounds, useless; you may depend the enemy is not less so.

I intend to get into Basseterre road, St. Christophers, if possible, with my prize; but the wind being adverse and blowing hard, I much doubt, in the cripled state of both ships, whether I shall effect it, and if not, I must make a port to leeward. The high state of our discipline, with the gallant conduct of my officers and men, would have enabled me to have compelled a more formidable enemy to have yielded, had the fortune of war thrown one in my way;—as it is, I hope the President and my country will, for the present, be content with a very fine frigate being added to our navy, and that too with the loss of only one man killed, and two wounded, while the enemy had (the French surgeon reports) 52 or 53 killed and wounded. Several were found dead in the tops, &c. and thrown overboard as